

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7594

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BL

SUBJECT: OUTLET TO THE SEA FOR BOLIVIA; SPEECHES BY
PRESIDENTS BANZER AND PEREZ.

IN MAJOR SPEECHES DELIVERED IN SUCRE ON THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF BOLIVIAN INDEPENDENCE BOTH PRESIDENT BANZER
OF BOLIVIA AND PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA MADE NUMEROUS
REFERENCES TO BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED STATUS AND HER NEED FOR
AN OUTLET TO THE SEA.

PRESIDENT BANZER IN REFERING TO BOLIVAR'S DREAM OF
CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION STATED THAT INTEGRATION CANNOT BE
REACHED IN THE DEGREE SOUGHT SO LONG AS NOTHING IS DONE
TO RESOLVE THE INJUSTICE OF BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED STATUS.
HE ALSO REITERATED THE CLAIM THAT WITHOUT A SOVEREIGN
OUTLET TO THE SEA BOLIVIA'S INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE
CAPACITY IS IMPAIRED; THAT BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED STATUS
REFLECTS A NOW OUTMODED ERA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND THAT A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS IN THE INTEREST
OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA; THAT BOLIVIA MUST
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HAVE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE PROCESS OF L.A.

INTEGRATION, AND THAT REQUIRES ACCESS T O MARINE NATURAL RESOURCES AND EQUALITY OF TRANSPORTATION POSSIBILITIES. HE SAID AT ONE POINT THAT THIS IS A "DECISIVE STAGE TO FIND FORMULAS OF UNDERSTANDING THAT WILL RESOLVE OUR EARLY RETURN TO THE SEA". AT ANOTHER POINT HE SAID , ""--THIS OLD AND VITAL BOLIVIAN PROBLEM HAS EVOLVED WITH THE RYTHM OF THE TIMES. IT IS THUS THAT IT CONSTITUTES AT THIS TIME AN OBSTACLE FOR THE SHARED DEVELOPMENT OF THE NOW DESERTED AND STERILE SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST".

PRESIDENT PEREZ MADE NUMEROUS RATHER POETIC REFERENCES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SEA AS A UNIFYING ELEMENT, AND MADE SEVERAL REMARKS CONCERNING THE JUSTICE OF BOLIVIA'S DESIRE FOR A RETURN TO THE SEA. IN DESCRIBING VENEZUELA'S SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIA'S ASPIRATIONS IN THIS REGARD, PRESIDENT PEREZ NOTED," AND THIS SOLIDARITY IS MADE DEEPER IN THE HEARTS OF LATIN AMERICANS AS WITH GROWING INTENSITY ALL THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF AMERICA ARE SUPPORTING PANAMA IN ITS LEGITIMATE ASPIRATION. BECAUSE THE OCCUPATION OF THE CANAL IS A FACT WHICH OFFENDS THE DIGNITY OF AMERICA. AND WE GARNER LITTLE AUTHORITY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES IF BOLIVIA IS DENIED ITS SEA." PEREZ MADE A MORE SPECIFIC OFFER OF ASSISTANCE WHEN HE SAID, "... I COME TO OFFER AND PROPOSE THAT WE JOIN IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE WITH BOLIVIA TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IT WILL NEED TO BUILD ON ITS OWN COASTS THE BASES OF ITS GRAND NATIONAL LATIN AMERICAN DESTINY". STEDMAN

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